Cancer Patients in Assam

2038. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of the cancer patients in Assam is higher than that in other States in the country;

(b) whether there are some cancer-prone areas in Assam;

(c) whether an in-depth study has been made to find out its causes; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) There are no reliable data available in these respects.

(c) and (d) An epidemiological study on cancer of pharynx and oesophagus is being carried out by the hospital cancer registry of ICMR at Dibrugarh to search for the factors relevant to their aetiology. In Assam, there is Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute Guwahati recognised by the Govt, of India as a Regional Cancer which provides comprehensive cancer treatment facilities. Central Government has provided an amount of Rs. 70.00 lakhs during the current financial year for the development of Oncology Wing in Silchar Medical College & Hospital, Silchar.

Appointment of Director of National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta

2039. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the upper age-limit for the appointment of Director of National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta, and what are the prescribed qualifications;

(b) when the last appointment was made to this post and whether any relaxation in respect of age and qualifications were made in respect of that appointment;

(c) what is the age of retirement for such officers and whether the same has been adhered to in all cases; and

(d) if not, what are the details in this regard and on what basis the relaxations were made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN HE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The upper age-limit for the appointment of Director of National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta, is 55 years. The prescribed qualifications are as under:—

Degree/Diploma of not less than 4 years duration included in the Second Schedule to the Homopeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.

OR

M.B.B.S. with homoeopathic qualification included in the Second Schedule to the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973. *Experience:*

(i) Professional standing of not less than 12 years.

(ii) Teaching experience of atleast 5 years as a senior Lecturer or in a higher position in a recognised Homoeopathic Institution

OR

Research and Administrative experience for 5 years as Head of Department in a Homoeopathic Research Institution.

(b) to (d): The last appointment (adhoc appointment) of the Director, National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta, was made on 1st August 1989 on the recommendations of the duly constituted Selection Committee. Relaxation was made in respect of the age and qualifications in view of this otherwise exceptional qualifications and experience. The appointment of the present Director, NIH, Calcutta was made under exceptional circumstances as an interim arrangement consequent upon the suspension of the regular Director of National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta.

As per Govt, rules the retirement age of such officer is 58 years, extendable to 60 years. These Rules are applicable to National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta. Candidates after retirement are kept in service only when suitable candidates are not available and the posts cannot be kept vacant.